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Thailand

Grain and Feed

Weekly Rice Price Update

2008

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Report Highlights:

Fragrant rice prices rose above US\$1,000/MT and white rice prices increased as well in anticipation of limited global exportable supplies and the Philippines tender scheduled for April 17. Rice quotations remain few and far between. Domestic prices will be under upward pressure throughout the month.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Trade Report
Bangkok [TH1]
[TH]

Indicative Prices (Week Ending Mar. 31):

Thailand: Export (FOB) Prices for various grades of rice (USD/M.T.)									
	Exporter Observations							Period Avg.	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	1,020	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	1,010	903
WR 100 B	760	-	-	-	-	-	750	755	670
PB 5%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WR 5%	745	-	-	-	-	-	700	723	635
WR 10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WR 15%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WR 25%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WR 35%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A 1 SUP	610	-	-	-	-	-	650	630	565
A 1 SPEC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Source: Average actual prices received from exporters, Exchange rate: 31.0 baht/U.S.\$									

Market Tone

Fragrant rice prices surpassed US\$1,000/MT this week. Meanwhile, export and domestic prices of white rice rose 13-18 percent in anticipation of tighter global exportable supplies among major exporting countries amid concerns over food security. Indian Government raised minimum export prices of non-basmati rice to US\$1,000/MT (FOB) last Thursday, up from US\$650/MT set earlier this month. In addition, foreign demand remains strong, particularly from the Philippines. On April 17, the Philippines will tender to buy 500,000 tons of rice, of which 400,000 tons will be 25% grade white rice, and 50,000 tons each for 5% and 15% percent grade white rice, respectively. The bidding prices are expected to be far above the previous tender's levels (Mar. 11) of US\$715 – 735/MT, C&F. Meanwhile, the Thai Government is encouraging farmers to hold their second-crop paddy for anticipated higher export prices in the next few months. As a result, paddy traders and millers are aggressively speculating the market. Domestic prices will remain under upward pressure throughout this month. The Government's stock release for domestic consumption only will not take place until the end of this month. Presently, the Government is surveying domestic rice availability before proceeding with the sale.

The following are the reported rice exports (as is basis):

WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4-WK AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO	YEAR TO DATE AS % OF LAST YEAR
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)	%
FEB 10	172,362	177,655	965	427	125.8
FEB 17	188,870	183,380	1,154	540	113.8
FEB 24	170,634	183,757	1,324	631	109.8
MAR 2	175,469	176,833	1,500	703	113.2
MAR 9	190,883	181,464	1,691	799	111.7
MAR 16	193,216	182,550	1,884	914	106.2
MAR 23	204,056	190,906	2,088	1,014	105.8
MAR 30	238,638	206,698	2,326	1,122	107.4

Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FAS/BKK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.

Unofficial exports (excluding fragrant rice) for Mar. 24-30, 2008 totaled 238,638 tons, up 34,582 tons from the previous week, and up 31,940 tons from the four-week moving average of 206,698 tons. Exports during Jan. 1 – Mar. 30, 2008 totaled 2,326,440 tons, as compared with 1,122,944 tons in the previous year.

According to the Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan. 1 – Feb. 29, 2008, amounted to 1,997,780 tons, up 68.7 percent from 1,184,299 tons in the previous year.

Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period of Mar. 10-14, Mar. 17-21, and Mar. 24-28, 2008 are as follows:

Movement (MT)	Mar. 10-14	Mar. 17-21	Mar. 24-28
Weekly sales	306,945	131,607	161,807
4 week sum	882,492	845,305	809,466
4 week mov. avg.	220,623	211,326	202,367
Total weekly sales	2,155,519	2,287,126	2,448,933

End of Report.